

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Intelligence Information Cable

• ROUTINE

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INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINAL

300626 Z

DIST 30 MARCH 1968

COUNTRY: LAOS

DOI: 16 AND 17 MARCH 1968

SUBJECT: PROPAGANDA IN VIENTIANE REGARDING THE  
ATTACK ON PHOU PHA THI, SITE 85, IN HOUA  
PHAN PROVINCE

ACQ: LAOS, VIENTIANE (29 MARCH 1968)

SOURCE:

1. ON 17 MARCH 1968 COLONEL SOTH PHETRASY, THE  
NEO LAO HAK SAT REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE,  
COMMENTED THAT DURING THE ACTION AT PHOU PHA THI  
THE PRO-LAO DEFENDERS TOOK 800 CASUALTIES AND THAT  
AMONG THEM WERE 18 AMERICANS AND MORE THAN 100 THAIS  
WHO WERE KILLED. HE ADDED THAT MOST OF THE GOVERNMENT

[REDACTED]

(classification) (dissem controls)

TROOPS AT PHOU PHA THI HAD BEEN MEOS. ONLY 100 OF THE DEFENDERS WERE LAO. (FIELD COMMENT: SOI'S STATEMENTS WERE GREATLY EXAGGERATED AND HAD NO BASIS IN FACT. THE ONLY STATEMENT APPROACHING THE TRUTH IS THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE DEFENDERS WERE MEOS. AN ACCOUNT BROADCAST FROM PEKING BY THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH ON 21 MARCH CLAIMED THAT OVER 160 ENEMY TROOPS WERE WIPED OUT IN THE PHOU PHA THI AREA AND THAT AMONG THESE WERE 20 AMERICAN ADVISORS.)

2. ON 16 MARCH A PATHET LAO SOLDIER AT THE NEW LAO HAK SAT INSTALLATION SAID THAT THE PATHET LAO WERE ABLE TO CAPTURE PHOU PHA THI ON 12 MARCH (SIC) IN AN HOUR BECAUSE THEY HAD THE SUPPORT OF PEOPLE WHO REALLY HATED THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS. (FIELD COMMENT: THE PATHET LAO DID NOT ADMIT TO THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE ATTACKING FORCE, WHICH WAS NORTH VIETNAMESE.) THE SAME SOLDIER SAID THAT LAO ARMED FORCES UNITS CANNOT ENTER LIBERATED AREAS, BUT THE PATHET LAO CAN STAY IN VIENTIANE. THE

[REDACTED]

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(classification) (dissem controls)

PATHEI LAO BELIEVED THAT THEY CAN ALSO CAPTURE  
VIENTIANE IN LESS THAN ONE HOUR. THERE WOULD BE NO  
PROBLEM IF THEY HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE THEY  
WERE COUNTING ON. VIENTIANE IS SMALLER THAN DIEN BIEN  
PHOU, BUT THE PATHEI LAO DID NOT WANT TO SEE BLOODSHED  
IN VIENTIANE. WHEN TIME CAME THE PATHEI LAO WOULD BE  
ABLE TO CAPTURE VIENTIANE WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT.

3. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USAID USIS USMACV  
7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]